

Junior Rangers Bond over Adventure and Adversity

By Crew Four

Over the past five weeks, we have gotten to know each other really well and each of us has found our own niche within the crew. We had tons of fun and had some really great experiences. First came the work. We started at Big Bluestem which presented many challenges such as long, arduous hikes and poison ivy. Later we traveled to Dakota Ridge where we had a close encounter with either a land beaver or a wolf or maybe even a wolverine (not really). While we were working with the Integrated Pest Management group, one of them was struck by a rattlesnake (but he was wearing his snake guard, so it was okay). When we went to the McClintock Trail we had to keep our eyes open for the infamous McClintock Monkey (there isn't really a monkey, but it is a jungle down there). Finally, we worked on Tenderfoot trail for our last

"I've learned a lot about myself and my work ethic. I love the opportunity to give back to the community."

— Junior Ranger Crew Member



Crew leader Sam Bock discusses the work ahead on the E.M. Greenman reroute with his team. Each crew took turns assisting the OSMP Trail Crew in completing the reroute project this season.



Crew Two shares a "touching" moment at the end of the work day.

Top Ten Reasons Why Junior Rangers is Satisfying

By Crew One

- 10) We learn more about the wildlife and ecology that surround Boulder.
- 9) We learn a better sense of responsibility, time management, and respect for one another.
- 8) Helping the community makes us feel involved and more a part of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
- 7) It feels great to finish a project by problem solving and with team work.
- 6) Showing that we are improving the OSMP trail system, and being able to see how all of our hard work pays off.
- 5) Hiking up a finished trail and reaching the top.
- 4) Making money is awesome!
- 3) Increasing self-motivation in everyday life—we do it because we want to, not because we have to.
- 2) We learn how to work and function as a team, and take on a role of leadership, which translates to our everyday lives.
- 1) We make friends!

Helping the Environment by Reducing Plastic Use

By Crew Three

Although plastics are highly abundant in everyday life, few people stop to consider how many items that we use (and discard) have plastic components. Here are a few of the items our crew uses during an average work day which contain

Cereal	Cell phone	Boots
Shampoo bottle	Backpack	Sunglasses
Toothpaste	Lunch containers	Bike
Toothbrush	Food packaging	Longboard
Car	Tools	TV*
Clothes	Helmet	Game system*
Shoes	Gloves	

*For after work

some amount of plastic:

After making the list, it became clear to us that, while it would be really impossible to complete our work without plastics, there are things we can do to reduce consumption:

- Use glass or ceramic cups, plates, bowls, silverware
- Buy in bulk
- Reuse plastic bags or use paper bags
- Eat more fresh produce from your local market
- Catch or grow your own food

"You get all the benefits of being at a job, like working in a team and getting paid, while being outside and enjoying the company of a group of your peers."

— Junior Ranger Crew Member



Lindsay Sandoval of Crew Two looks for Mediterranean Sage on OSMP property. Junior Ranger crews assisted IPM (Integrated Pest Management) staff this summer in removing invasive weeds such as Med Sage and Common Teasel.



Crew Four helps mitigate erosion due to water seepage on Valley View, near Dakota Ridge.

The Mediterranean Sage Song

By Crew Two

(To be sung to the tune of "I'm A Little Teapot")

I'm a little med sage, short and stout.
Here are my flowers, here are my leaves.
When I get all warmed up, watch me sprout.
Take a shovel and dig me out!